

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
August 16, 2001

UPDATED FACT SHEET ON VOLUNTARY PARTY LIABILITY EXEMPTIONS

The RR Program has revised our fact sheet describing how to obtain a Voluntary Party Liability Exemption (VPLE). The VPLE process allows parties to conduct a voluntary remediation of a contaminated property and obtain exemptions from future liability. Fact Sheet #2, "Voluntary Party Remediation and Exemption from Liability", publication # RR-506, provides new information about eligibility and fees, and responds to frequently asked questions. This publication replaces the previous (March 1999) version and describes changes to the VPLE law that were included in the 1999-2001 budget. The fact sheet can be downloaded (Adobe PDF Format) from the RR web site:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/archives/pubs/RR506.pdf> You can also order a copy of the publication by calling our RR information line: 608-264-6020 (or 1-800-367-6076 for long distance calls originating in Wisconsin). Ask for publication RR-506.

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR RULE CHANGES REGARDING SITE CLOSURE

DNR now anticipates a November 1, 2001 effective date for rule revisions that change site closure procedures by creating a geographic information system (GIS) registry of closed remediation sites. (We have previously announced an October effective date.) These revisions will still allow responsible parties to obtain closure of sites using natural attenuation to eventually meet groundwater enforcement standards, but will eliminate the requirement to record groundwater use restrictions for all affected properties. Instead, affected properties will appear on the new internet-based GIS registry of closed remediation sites. After the rules become effective the public, realtors, developers, lending institutions and the Wisconsin Water Well Association (WWWA) can rely on this new registry to identify properties with approved case closures where groundwater contamination remains and special well construction requirements may apply. Digger's Hotline will notify DNR, who will in turn notify well drillers, if a potential drilling location appears on the registry. Because it will be important to so many, we need to ensure that sites are accurately listed in the registry. We are working with the Department of Commerce and with each of our regional offices to list all sites that have already been closed with groundwater use restrictions. In addition, many of these locations are within municipal boundaries where potable water wells are seldom constructed. We are therefore also working with WWWA to identify boundaries within which DNR, rather than Digger's Hotline, must be contacted prior to well construction or reconstruction. In assessing all these tasks we decided that a November 1 effective date would contribute to a more complete and accurate registry when the rules go into effect. Responsible parties can still wait for the rule revisions to become effective before requesting case closure. The current version of the registry is on-line at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/index.htm>, under the "Find Sites" button.

UPCOMING EPA BROWNFIELD GRANT DEADLINES

The Environmental Protection Agency has four major grant deadlines in the fall of 2001, all part of its Federal Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative. These are the four grant opportunities:

- BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOT

Tentative deadline: December 17, 2001 Tribal, local and state governments are eligible for these grants of up to \$250,000 over two years to test, facilitate or expand local assessment efforts for brownfields.

- BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP REVOLVING LOAN FUND PILOT

Tentative deadline: November 15, 2001

Tribal, local and state governments are eligible for \$1 million to capitalize a revolving loan fund for cleanup of brownfields. Loans can be made to public or private entities. Repaid loans and program income are used to make additional loans.

- SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOTS

Tentative deadline: November 26, 2001

Current EPA Brownfield Pilot Communities are eligible for an additional \$200,000 over two years in supplemental funding to support continuing brownfield assessment and investigation.

- BROWNFIELDS JOB TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PILOTS

Tentative deadline: October 15, 2001

Colleges, universities, nonprofit training centers, community job training organizations, tribal, local and state governments located in or near a current EPA Brownfield Pilot Community are eligible for \$200,000 over two years to establish a program to help residents take advantage of jobs created by the assessment and cleanup of brownfields. Final deadlines for all four grants should be announced in the Federal Register on August 27th. The federal register and information on the above programs are on EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/> If you are interested in applying for a grant, or have questions regarding these programs, please call Anna Thomas, DNR Brownfields Financial Specialist, at (608) 264-6007.

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